

REMARKS

In accordance with the above amendments, claims 49-59 have been canceled in this application as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Election/Restrictions

Pursuant to the detailed Action, a new restriction requirement was made as follows:

I. Claims 46-48 and 60-68, drawn to a disposal system for a skin-worn transdermal patch device containing residual amounts of an opioid substance after use thereof on a patient.

II. Claims 49-59, drawn to a skin-worn transdermal patch device for the administration of an abusable substance to a patient.

Reviewing the claims, applicants believe that claim 59, which depends from claim 46, should actually be included in Group I. In accordance with the restriction requirement, the applicants have elected the claims of Group I containing claims 46-48 and 59-68 to be pursued in this application. As indicated above, applicants reserve the right to pursue claims in accordance with Group II in a separate divisional application.

In addition, applicants have added new method claims 69-77 which are directed to the method of using the elected device. Examination of these claims with the device claims is respectfully requested.

Early consideration and allowance of the elected claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.



C. G. Mersereau
Registration No. 26,205
900 Second Avenue South
Suite 820
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 339-7461